



News Release

Dixie National Forest

For Immediate Release
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POWELL RANGER DISTRICT PLANS FALL PRESCRIBED FIRES

PANGUITCH, Utah – The Powell Ranger District is planning to ignite two prescribed fires this fall totaling about 750 acres.

When fuels, safety and weather conditions permit, Forest Service and National Park Service fire management crews plan to burn about 500 acres in the Dave's Hollow area, located about two miles west of Ruby's Inn and the entrance to Bryce Canyon National Park.

The East Fork Underburn is designed to clean up accumulated surface and ladder fuels in the area, reducing the possibility of a large, fast moving wildland fire that could threaten campgrounds, power lines and private property on or adjacent to National Forest or Park Service lands.

Once ignited, fire managers expect the fire to burn for about 10 days.

District fire managers also intend to burn about 250 acres in the Sunset Cliffs North area, about four miles northeast of Hatch, Utah.

The Dixie National Forest developed the Sunset Cliffs North project to create defensible space around private land that will reduce the threat of a large, destructive wildland fire burning onto private property.

The project will also maintain the ponderosa pine overstory, reduce the density of pinyon and juniper trees, and increase the presence of forbs, grasses and shrubs.

Once ignited, fire managers expect the fire to burn for six to 10 days.

The Powell Ranger District does not anticipate any area or road closures for either prescribed fire.

Fire crews will monitor the fires to ensure that they meet management objectives, and to provide for public safety.

Forest Service fire managers are also working closely with Bryce Canyon National Park, the Utah Division of Air Quality and local businesses to minimize the impact of smoke on local residents and visitors.

Powell Ranger District fire crews are also monitoring a small lightning-caused fire on the south end of the district. The two-acre G'Day Fire is located about seven miles northeast of Alton, and about one mile east of the junction of Forest Roads 105 and 1199.

Historically, fire has been the dominant disturbance on the Paunsaugunt Plateau. Prescribed fire is a tool used by foresters to re-introduce fire into this ecosystem, which 100 years of intensive fire suppression has unnaturally altered.

Carefully managed fire also improves wildlife habitat, rangeland conditions and general forest health.

For more information about the East Fork Underburn or Sunset Cliffs North prescribed fires, contact the Powell Ranger District office at (435) 676-9300.

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